

# AVILA EXAMINER

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 6, No. 8

Avila College, Kansas City, MO

March 12, 1991

## Goppert Play Has "Mass Appeal"

By Vivian Grover

The stage play "Mass Appeal" was truly a taste of creativity. "Mass Appeal" is a Bill C. Davis play that was directed by Buck Baker.

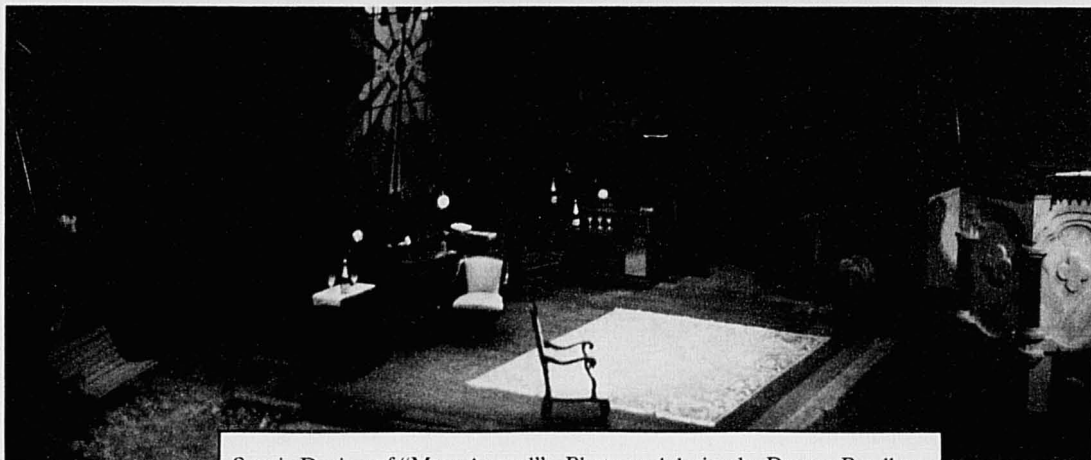
The cast consisted of two actors, junior Walter Brandes as Father Tim Farley and senior Rick Truman as Mark Dolson. The play is about a priest who is comfortable with his congregation and a seminarian who challenges his beliefs and his style. The theme of the play is whether it is better sometimes to make people happy and tell them what they want to hear rather than support one's personal ideas and lose the support of the people.

The stage setting was done by Darren Bradley. "I basically read the script and create," said Darren. Create is exactly what he did. The detailed stage work took Darren a little over four weeks to complete. The set con-

sisted of a church office at the center of the stage. Its decor was of an antique flavor. There was an imitation of a stained glass window in the Church office. Even though it was not real glass, the vivid colors that Bradley chose gave the effect of actually being in a church atmosphere.

The set consisted of an elevated pulpit located in the midst of the audience to the right of the theatre, and a yard scene set in the back of the church office. However, the most unique part of the set was a real tree. Yes, a real tree! This tree, wrapped in a yellow ribbon in honor of our American troops at war, added an artistic flavor only appreciated by sight.

The true essence of theatre is only felt when one can see it live.



Scenic Design of "Mass Appeal". Photo and design by Darren Bradley

## Avila College Represented At Court Hearings

By Kim Lippert

Six Avila students had the opportunity of going to the National Inter-Collegiate Mock Trial Tournament at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. The competition took place February 16 - 17. Eighty-seven undergraduate colleges and universities, and over 150 teams throughout the nation sent teams of six people to participate in the mock trials. All the schools involved are given the same case. This year, the case was "Sandy Shores vs. Clarion College." The case involved a gymnast at a small college who sued her school's newspaper for printing a story that presented her in "false light."

All the competing teams have to be prepared to represent both sides of the case. For each side, the teams have three attorneys and three witnesses.

Avila's team was made up of the following people: David Dildine, Dan Rightmire and Derek Moorhead as the three attorneys; and Darrah McHenry, Jill Alumbaugh and Gary

Haarmann as the three witnesses. Steve Alumbaugh is the educator coach, who gives most of the debating advice. Kevin Jamison is the attorney coach, who helps with the legal details.

Avila was scheduled for three trials on Saturday, February 16, and one trial on Sunday, February 17. Two of the trials were for the plaintiff's side (Sandy Shores) and two were the defense (Clarion College).

Derek Moorhead said, "This is the best team I've seen come out of Avila. We're more prepared than we have been before. We want it more." The team had been preparing for the competition for the past two months. By participating in the mock trials, each student received one hour of college credit and very good experience in a courtroom. The trials took

place in rooms that were replicas of actual courtrooms. Two judges presided over the cases and there was no jury. The judges were practicing attorneys and judges.

Moorhead commented that the competition is "trial advocacy. It's an opportunity for us to get our feet wet." He added that participating in the mock trials for the past three years has "reassured my career goal. It has reassured me that I want to become an attorney."

Due to the success of the mock trials, Avila will be forming a pre-law club in the fall. Its main focus will be preparation for the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) and mock trials. Instead of just coming together for this national competition every year, club members will concentrate on preparing for law school year-round.

## Small and Large Universities

By Tom Dugan

Those students who have attended a university know the advantages of attending a smaller school.

At universities, classes are often taught by first or second-year graduate students with no real interest in teaching. At Avila, classes are usually taught by regular Avila faculty, and often by the head of the department. Furthermore, university class size can be in the hundreds. Avila classes seldom are larger than 25.

At Avila, students have easy access to the academic dean, registrar,

jors may not even get an advisor in the same area of study.

At Avila, there are no parking stickers, no buses, and no long walks between parking and buildings. This may not seem very important to those who have not climbed up 400 stairs in sub-zero weather just to get to campus from the parking lot.

There are endless advantages to attending Avila: low crime rate, respectability of a degree, close-knit community, etc. Small schools provide a good alternative to those not

## Thornhill Art Gallery Exhibits "Connections"

By Mellisa Martin

Currently showing at the Thornhill Gallery is "Connections", The Fourth Annual Artist/Teacher Juried Exhibition. The exhibit will run March 1-28, with a reception will held March 1 from 7-9 p.m.

The work is a collaboration of metro area art teachers. According to George Chrisman, Curator of the Gallery, "Connections" has been done in an effort to reach out to area schools. Thornhill Gallery is aiming to change its focus by becoming more of a teaching gallery. Those who

have worked on exhibits in the Gallery will try to provide lectures and demonstrations on art and how it is produced.

Chrisman commented that Kansas City is a large region for art and the Thornhill Gallery is fairly well known. "The Gallery may be smaller than others (around town), but it's more intimate," said Chrisman.

When selecting pieces, the Gallery features artists from the area and tries to provide a variety of work. Previously, ten terra-cotta sculptures

by Dan Keegan, Coordinator of the Art Department, were shown. The exhibit was reviewed in the Kansas City Star and highly praised.

Thornhill Gallery is open to the public and admission is free. The hours are Monday through Friday, 1-7 p.m.

Aside from "Connections", water color painting by Rod Schuch will be on exhibit April 3-26 which a reception held April 5, 7-8:30 p.m. During May, a senior show is scheduled for Avila art students.

## Avila Forms Symphony Orchestra

By Vivian Grover

The Department of Humanities has formed a Symphony Orchestra to enhance the ears of the Avila College Community and to highlight the talents of the ensemble members. The ensemble is open to the entire Avila community -- students, alums, friends, staff, faculty, and members of metropolitan Kansas City as well. Rehearsals began last month with two concerts scheduled for March 9 and May 19.

It has been said that music is life, love, hope, sadness and pain. Music is a creation of all themes known to man. Music is the sound

of words unable to be spoken and is the sound of feeling we sometimes have about one another. Music is a messenger that sends vibes from man to woman and from heart to heart. Taking all of this into consideration, we are lost without music!

Brick by brick, Avila will build an excellent music department with the "orchestra pit" as our foundation, the support of the people as our cement, and the ensemble as our bricks. Once the bricks are "soundly" in place, the conductor can say "Avila, let the music begin!"

## Kramer Investigates St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Cheryl Denslow

In February, Dr. Kramer began an investigation on campus to see what interest there might be in an Avila-sponsored float. Although the college will not have a float in this year's parade, Dr. Kramer said there is enough interest to begin planning an entry for 1992. Dan Keegan, art coordinator for Avila's Art Department, will be in charge of plans for a float next year. With 1992 being Avila's 75th anniversary, it will be a perfect time for Avila to enter a float in the parade said Keegan. He asked that anyone interested in beginning work on the float in the fall, or anyone who is interested in going to the parade this year to "scout out the type of floats entered" should contact him at ext. 259.

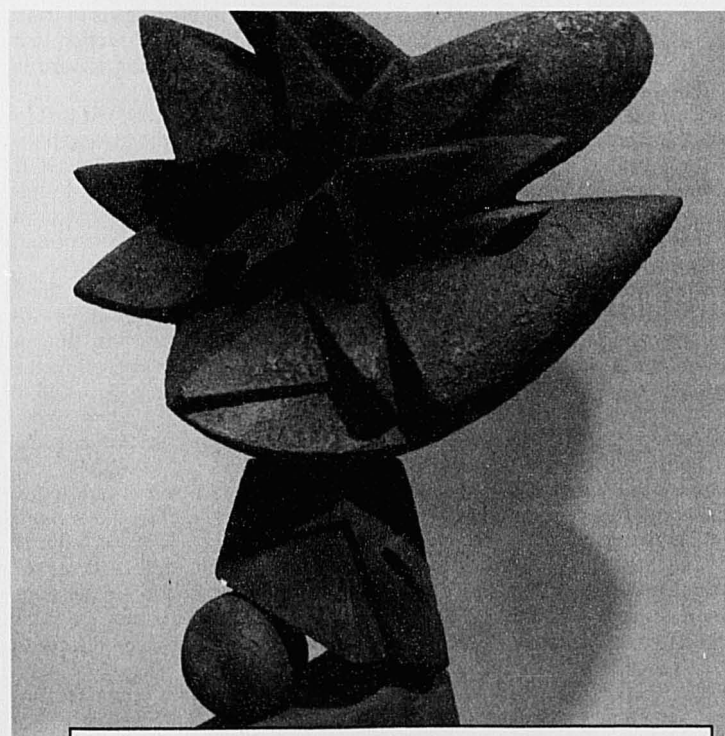
The St. Patrick's Day Parade was

"born again" in Missouri 18 years ago when a group of five men, with local radio personality Mike Murphy and bar owner Don Hogarty in the lead, left Hogarty's Place for a one-and-a-half-block impromptu march on St. Patrick's Day in 1974.

St. Patrick's Day parades were held in St. Louis, Missouri, as far back as the mid-1800s. But since 1974, the parade in Kansas City has grown to rival those in Chicago and New York. According to Molly Sheehan Corkhill, an active member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, there are years when Kansas City boasts the largest parade with crowds of 200,000. She said this is because the local parade is always held on March 17.

Some 200 floats sponsored by families and businesses make up the parade which starts at 25th and Main then turns north on Grand Avenue to 6th Street. There is an entry fee for floats, although schools, drill teams and bands can participate free. Proceeds from the parade are donated to charity.

Other events are held in Kansas City to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A luncheon is scheduled for March 8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Charge for the luncheon is \$17.00. A special Gaelic Mass will be said at Redemptorist Church, 3333 Broadway at 5 p.m. on March 16. Information about any of these events is available by calling the parade office at 931-7373.



Dan Keegan's art exhibit. Photo courtesy of Art Department



## President's Council Directs Future of Avila

By Melissa Martin

Just as the City Council directs the future of Kansas City, so does the President's Council direct the future of Avila College.

The President's Council is made up of three faculty members, elected by the faculty; three staff members, elected by the staff; and three students, appointed by the Student Senate. For the current year, Susan Hildebrand, George Smith and Larry Sullivan have been elected to represent the faculty, John Armato, Mary-Ann Deck and Barbara Engel have been elected to represent the staff, and Bret Reinert and Kate Axtell speak for the students. Because members may not serve for more than one term, the Student Senate is currently in the process of electing a

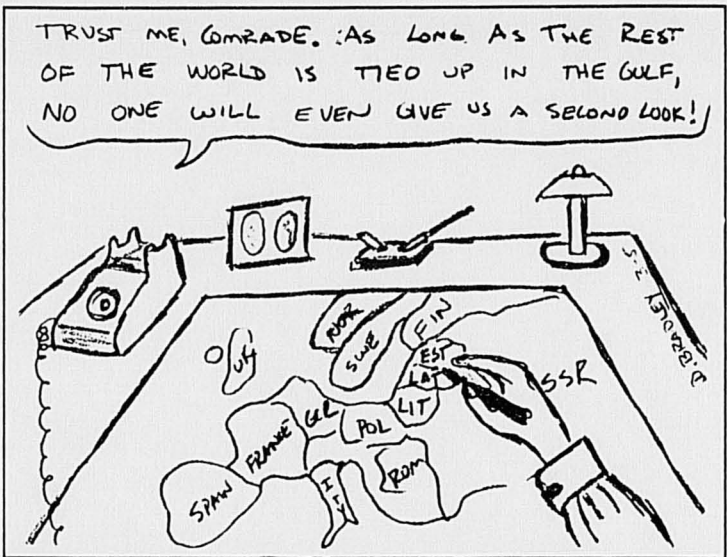
third member.

The Council was formed to offer feedback to the President of the College. Because students, faculty and staff all have different perspectives on various matters, this is one way for Dr. Kramer to hear every viewpoint and offer answers or explanations to certain topics. More formally, the Council is there to advise the President on matters concerning the College, serve as a forum for new ideas and proposals for the College, and provide means for discussion among the three key segments of the campus community.

In the past, the group composed a list of concerns and ideas which were then rated by importance. This list was used as a guideline for dis-

cussion in each meeting. When Dr. Kramer noticed the same topics resurfacing each year, he chose to take a different format. This term, members simply present new proposals and concerns at each meeting. The two main topics discussed at the meetings this semester have been strengthening Avila's image and improving inter-college communication.

The Council meets the third Thursday of every month in the Barefoot Room. Since someone has been chosen to represent each area of the school, these meetings are closed. However, Dr. Kramer welcomes anyone who may have a concern or question to come by his office and speak with him directly at any time.



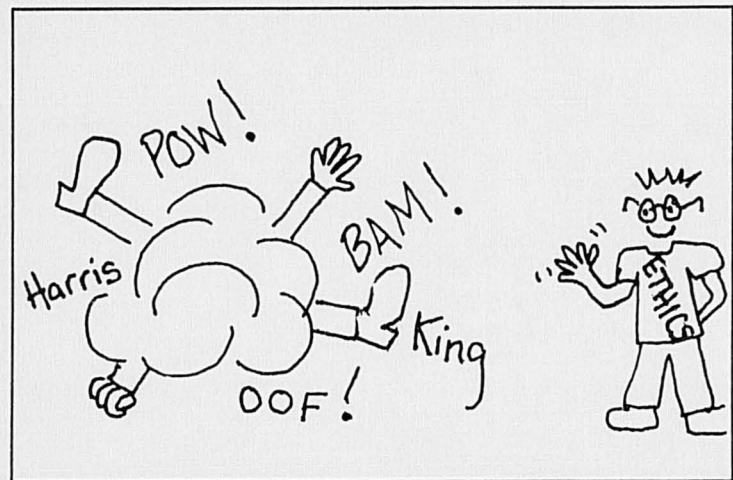
## Federally Funded Program Begins

By Jane Malone

Among the many recent additions to Avila College this semester is Christine Currier, Coordinator of Student Retention Services. As the coordinator of this federally funded program, Currier aims to keep present students enrolled at Avila and research the causes for which some people withdraw. Currier hopes to initiate two pilot programs for the 1991 freshman class. The first is designed to be an eight-week seminar to help orientate freshmen to college life. The second is a Freshman Liaison program. This program would match new freshmen with staff

members, which would provide further support for the student in his new surroundings of college.

Lastly, there will be a newsletter published on retention. The newsletter will come out four times during the Fall/Spring semesters, and will contain updates and other information pertinent to student retention. If you have any questions about student retention or simply wish to give Currier a warm Avila welcome, you may contact her through the Student Affairs Office or stop by her office in Marian Centre.



## Dinner Pays Off

The nation's much talked about economic slump was nowhere to be seen Saturday night, February 16, when nearly 500 supporters and business leaders arrived at the Plaza's Ritz Carlton Hotel for the hundred-dollar-per-plate Fifteenth Annual Avila College American Royal Steer Dinner and Auction.

The money came as Avila auctioned off trips, works of art, and even a puppy. By the end of the night, receipts for the event totaled \$210,000 and showed a net profit of \$182,000 -- an all-time high -- for student scholarships.

## A Different Way To Further Education

By Kyle Schudy

Are you unhappy with your job? Do you need a career change? Well, fear no longer and look to Avila's Weekend College.

This may sound like a bad commercial but according to Weekend College advisor Dave Wissmann, it's an option of which a number of people are taking advantage.

"Basically, it gives people another option," stated Wissmann. "Some people, because of their busy schedules, only have their weekends available and open and we have established programs that can work with them."

Whether it's the person who wants to finish a degree, get a new one, or even the student who sees the weekend as an attractive time to pick up

extra credit hours, Weekend College seems to be a meaningful and different means to further one's education.

There are two types of programs given on the weekends. The first meets weekly on Saturday or Sunday, generally for under three hours. Up to four credit hours can be earned in the process.

The second type is the Weekend Intensive course. Classes meet for four hours on Friday and from 9 a.m. -- 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Up to three hours of credit can be earned, but most classes are for one credit. Generally there are required readings and assignments students are responsible for before and after attending class.

"The typical person is the non-traditional student," stated Wissmann. "The average age is probably around 35, while they work full-time with 40-plus hours a week while pursuing a bachelor's degree."

Wissmann continued to say that the future looks bright for the weekends. "It's a very popular alternative that a great many students have taken advantage of. It allows Avila to serve people we haven't been able to reach before."

The weekends are for all people whether pursuing a career, interested in a degree or just for personal growth. Avila's Weekend College program, as the commercial might say, is just for you.



Christine Currier, Coordinator of Student Retention Services.  
Photo by Tasha Kovich

## Representing the Student Body

By Jay Arndt

Every Monday morning at 7:15 a.m. Avila's student government meets to discuss issues involving all students who attend Avila.

The Student Senate has many responsibilities. The main two are that Senate members assist the College in the realization of its philosophy and commitment as an institution of higher learning, and that the Senate is here for the student, in regard to academic policies and campus activities.

The Senate provides a way for students to voice their opinions to administration, faculty and staff about issues regarding campus problems or developments that directly affect the lives of college students.

The following positions are what make up the 11-member Student Senate. One Senator from each of the five academic departments which are: Humanities, Walter Brandes; NAHSM, Laura Hoffman; Education/Psychology, Sharon Pilcher, Nursing, Sydney Whitlock and Social Science, Janet Ford.

Further, there are two at-large Senators who are elected by the student body. They are Joann Mulligan and Jay Arndt.

The Student Senate has three executive officers. They are President Kate Axtell, Vice-President Brett Reinert, and Secretary Rick Truman. The eleventh member of the Senate is Tom Lease, Vice-President and Dean for Student Affairs, who serves as an ex-officio member.

In addition to the duties the Senate

has regarding academic departments, members must serve on at least two committees of the twelve from which to choose. Serving on these committees provides Senate members with first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of Avila College, involving faculty and staff members.

The idea behind this practice of serving on committees and attending department meetings is to learn first hand about the direction that Avila College is heading toward in the future.

The Senate is usually the first to be informed among the student body about any changes the College staff is making. It serves as a link to students of any upcoming changes in areas such as academic policy and other various student issues.

The Senate has met four times this semester to discuss topics involving various issues and student concerns. Issues which were brought up for discussion were discussed in an open forum, where students could voice their opinions about Avila College.

The Senate is very interested in knowing what the students want concerning how to improve Avila. It is requested that when students see any of the aforementioned Senators or Executive officers they let them know how you feel in regard to improving Avila College.

If students have any questions regarding Avila's policies, it is recommended they contact a Senate member to discuss concerns.

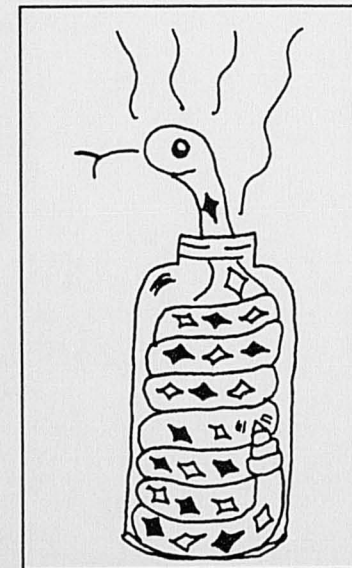
## Rodents Are the Main Source for Nourishment

By Janet C. Mees

"Oh...Acrid!" Sr. Ann Dominic gripped her nose.

"Raunchy," smirked freshman Ronda Peal.

"Putrid, vile, and rancid," grimaced junior Joann Mulligan.



Everyone spurted out adjectives when the distinct odor of the O'Reilly halls was mentioned. This very feature is perhaps the cause of the Biology Department being so well-known throughout campus by all majors, faculty, and staff. The question raised by many sensitive nose-holders was "Why?"

Bob Powell, Professor of Biology, laughed, "It's the inevitable by-products of having live animals."

Powell was referring to the department's collection of snakes that has increased rapidly in size since his arrival in 1972. The wide variety of snakes, though mostly local, are used in programs that biology students present to audiences ranging from pre-schoolers to adults.

Between 30 and 40 presentations are given per year. The programs deal with what amphibians and reptiles are, their features, habitat, and how they relate to their environment and each other.

Most of the snakes have been captured by Avila students themselves on field trips. (An exception to this is Sadie, an over 13-foot-long python, which was donated to the de-

partment in 1976.) Past trips have included experiences in the Smoky Mountains and the Big Bend area of Texas. The snakes were the notorious souvenirs that returned with them.

"Actually, the main source of odor is the rodent," grinned Powell. (The rodents are kept for the purpose of nourishment for the snakes.)

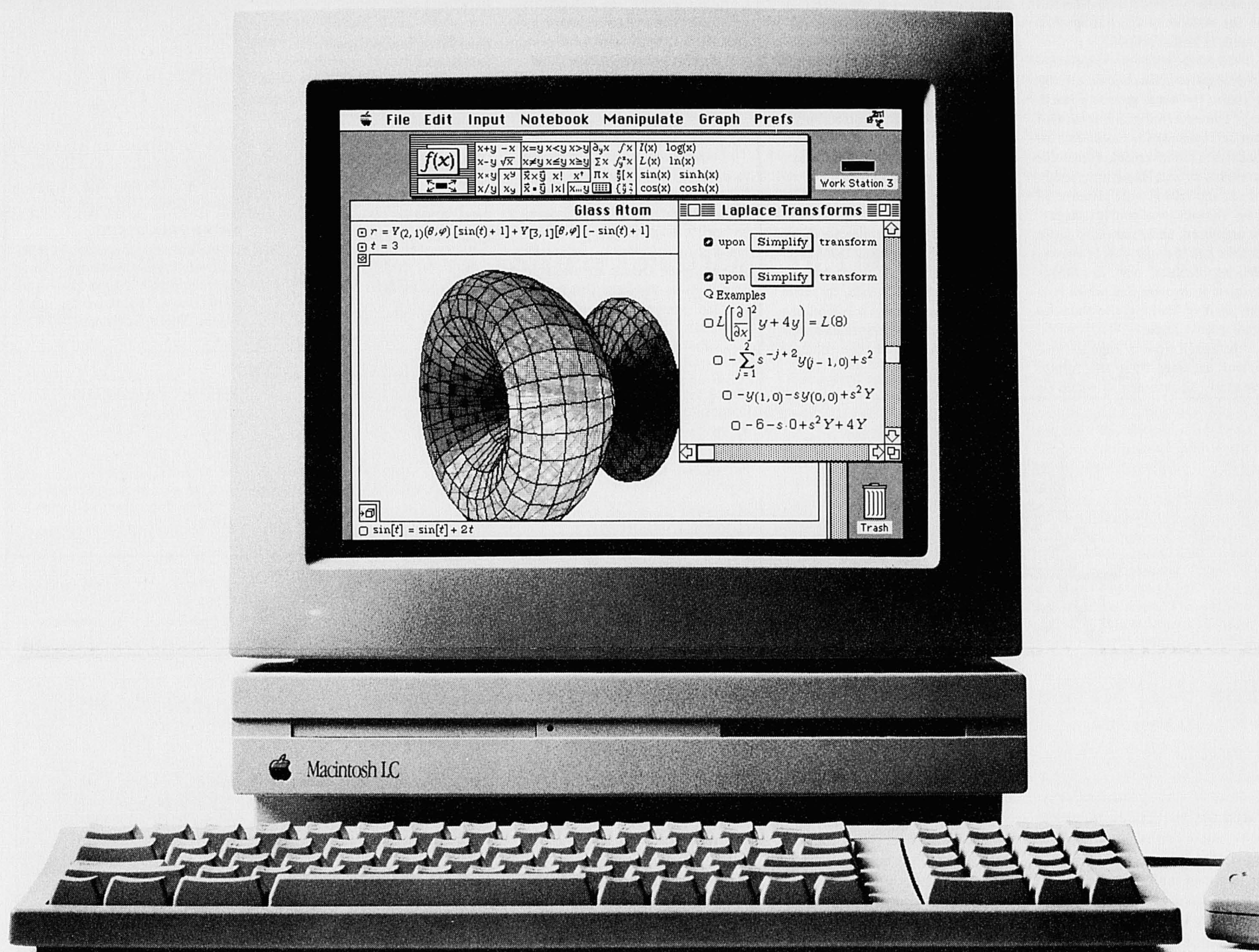
In all seriousness, he explained that "urine, especially, has a high ammonia content, and the combination of ammonia and the result of bacterial action creates an odor that can never be totally eliminated in spite of the fact that, for example, on the rodents, we change the bedding very regularly..."

Complaints roll in "when it gets out of hand," Powell revealed, "...but that doesn't happen very often."

As for himself, Powell shrugged, "You get used to it. It's a physiological advantage that we humans are equipped with. That is our sense of odor adjusts very rapidly to repeated stimulation by the same stimulus, so that after a few minutes, you really don't notice it."



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“Bloody Bad” Speaking and Writing

By Sister Mary Margaret Higgins H.R.C.

Malcolm Bradbury, columnist with the New York Times, commented recently on Prince Charles' criticism of the manner in which his fellow Englishmen, and many English-speaking people, speak and write their own language. “Bloody badly” was the prince's conclusio, followed by the accusation that the problem lies in the manner in which English is taught in British schools.

Could the problem be solved -- in England as well as elsewhere -- by a return to formal grammar teaching? The crusty old grammarian with her deployment of nouns and verbs, declensions and tenses, forces the student to connect his particular sense of self and relate to the elements of time. The exercise of putting thoughts in organized, understandable prose enables him to clarify what he knows. Writing enables new knowledge because it involves that which is at the heart of learning, the ability to state relationships.

Although modern linguists have drawn us away from the former emphasis on grammar, it would be

less than fair to blame them entirely for the linguistic permissiveness which has caused the failure of so many students to recognize the relationship between writing and learning. The informality caused by the intellectual and educational revolutions of the 60s is a factor in the declining ability of students to organize their thoughts and communicate them more effectively.

Writing skills must be practiced and re-enforced throughout the curriculum, or, like all other abilities, they will decline. Students will write well only if they have been required to do so over their entire college careers. The bottom line is to remember that writing is a vehicle for thinking.

David J. Klooster, director of the Writing Lab at DePauw University, reminds us that “Writing has the power to change minds, to incite action...Like pursuing a demanding sport, perfecting writing skills can be a joy, and the product, a thing of beauty.”



Jane Malone

The War In the Gulf: What Happens Afterward?

By H. Paul Le Maire, Ph.D.

Before the war in the Persian Gulf began on January 16, I was a member of a substantial minority that thought the United States should wait -- even wait indefinitely -- in the sand of Saudi Arabia before engaging in armed conflict with Iraq. On that unforgettable Wednesday evening when T.V. and radio announced that President Bush had ordered the air attack against Iraqi positions, I was angered because in war people kill one another with violence and viciousness.

The next day, I viewed the situation differently. As an American, I

decided I had an obligation to support our young men and women in the Gulf, including my own nephew, and to support our government, wrong though I thought it was. I thought this was the ethical position to take. I still think that way.

What happens, however, when the war ends? Will we have learned anything from so many lives lost and billions of dollars spent? Will we change our ways? Will the war inspire us to undergo a change, a change of heart, a conversion? I hope so and I hope that conversion will encompass three points:

First, that we realize how obscenely wasteful we are in our use of energy. Japan, some experts tells us, gets two times more energy from a barrel of oil than the United States. We need to drive small cars, carpool, build public transportation systems, better insulate our houses, develop and buy more energy efficient appliances.

Will we do this voluntarily? I am, it appears, idealistic enough -- or naive enough, some of my students have said -- to believe that we will if we receive the proper motivation, exhortation and example from our political leaders. We must, therefore, elect “wise” people, as Plato said, to lead us into the twenty-first century.

We must, moreover, commit ourselves as a nation to develop solar energies, since, as we refuse to recognize, the world is running out of oil. President Carter headed the nation in this direction. President Reagan ignored the commitment of his predecessor.

President Bush so far has shown no inclination to restore Carter's program. This is not only unfortunate, but potentially disastrous. And disaster drives men to war.

Second, we must work to get the arms-producing countries of the world to stop selling arms. Period. No more arms sales! It is immoral to make money from things whose only ultimate purpose is to kill and maim human beings. If we are a nation truly committed to doing the right -- after all this is how we justify our presence in the Gulf -- then we will work toward the fulfillment of this goal.

Third, after we have succeeded in stopping arms sales, then we must work to stop the manufacturing of all weapons of war. One expert noted the week before the war started, that because of the tremendous fire and destructive power of modern weaponry, we have in effect a nuclear war without the fallout. We have made remarkable progress dismantling nuclear weapons. We have the capability to dismantle conventional weapons and stop making them, if we will it. Then perhaps we will have enough money to educate our children, house our people and provide every American with adequate health care.

The Bible tells us that God can bring good out of evil. War is evil. The good that can come from it are conservation, solar energies, a halt to arms sales and production, and, finally adequate funds for education, housing, and health.



INTERVIEW DAY

Career centers from 10 Kansas City area Colleges and universities will hold the third Annual Interview Day, April 1, and 9 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m. at St. John's Conference Center (72nd and Paseo). About 40 employers will participate.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

To help you better develop and practice your interviewing skills, the Career Development and Placement Office is sponsoring Mock Interviews on April 9, 4-7 p.m. Sign up in Lower Blasco to participate in this invaluable program! Details are available at the sign-up clipboard. Call Extension 266 with any questions.

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, March 6, 4:30-6 p.m. Barefoot Room

Monday, March 11, 4:30-6 p.m. Barefoot Room

INTERVIEW SKILLS SEMINARS

Tuesday, April 2, 4:30-6 p.m. Barefoot Room

Wednesday, April 10, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Barefoot Room

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SIGN-UP UNDERWAY FOR April 18 Interview Day

For the third consecutive year,

Avila's Career Development & Placement Office joins with eight other area colleges and universities to sponsor INTERVIEW DAY at St. John's Conference Center at 72nd and Paseo.

While twenty-six employers have already confirmed their participation in this program, a total of forty local companies and agencies are expected.

Student sign-up, which began February 5 and continues through March 15, takes place at the Student Resource Center in Lower Blasco on a first-come, first-serve basis. A resume is required. Many more details will be available in the “Career Connections” newsletter available February 18. Students are also encouraged to watch for banners, flyers and other publicity posted around campus. Questions? Call 942-8400.

WORD PROCESSING

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BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

March 5 Phil Hermanson  
Corporate Communication US  
Sprint, 1-2:15 p.m. ORI 212

March 13 Jim Moore  
Promotions, KCMO, 11-12:15 p.m.  
BOR 402

March 15 Bernstein Rein Adv.  
12:30-1:45 p.m. ORI

April 2 Sandi Garron  
Owner, Public Relations Plus,  
1-2:15 p.m. ORI 212

April 10 Susan Sestric  
Writer/Producer, ITVA,  
12:30-1:45 p.m. ORI 204

April 24 Patricia Cahill  
General Manager, KCUR-FM,  
11-12:15 p.m. BOR 402

April 25 Bill Delay  
Director of Communication  
Division, American Association  
of Family Physicians, 1-2:15 p.m.  
ORI 212

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The Question of Responsibility

By Charles Sloan

Most people approach the topic of God with very definite ideas as its nature. They treat the Super Being as something that is responsible for everything that occurs in the world. God, to them, is the ultimate cause for death and war, as well as life and joy.

Many people blame God for the present war in the Middle-East. They cannot understand how God could allow such devastation in today's world. However, they ignore the fact that it was people who made the decisions that led to the war. Political leaders in the United States and Iraq initiated the conflict, not God. God can influence the choices that people make, but cannot dictate them.

Similarly, people pray that God

stop the war. They feel that the Supreme Being has the power and will to intervene and cease the hostilities. They neglect to realize that humans made the decisions that caused the war and humans will have to make the decisions that will stop the war. In that respect, God can only urge humans to cease fighting, but humans have to make the final choice.

Therefore, humans need to begin to take responsibility for the choices they make. God cannot be blamed for the poor decisions of humans, which has been so often the case in the past. People should begin to weigh their choices carefully, realizing that they, not God, are ultimately responsible for their decisions.

PHOTO CORRECTION

Cast of “Moon Children” photo was taken by Melanie Huntington.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Avila Examiner welcomes Letters to the Editor. All letters must include the writer's signature and contact telephone number. The telephone number will not be published. All letters will be verified before publication and are subject to editing for length, clarity and content. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than 250 words.

Please direct your letters to: Editor, Avila Examiner, c/o Humanities Department, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64145.

Publication Dates

April 2  
April 23

Avila Examiner Staff

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News Editor ..... Kenneth (Montana) Jackson  
Comments Editor ..... Kenneth (Montana) Jackson  
Feature Editor ..... Lisa Levine  
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Lead Photographer ..... Tasha Kovich  
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Advisor ..... Larry White

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Allowing Only Two Minutes to Change Horses

By Lisa Levine, Feature Editor

Most of us give little thought to the postal service until we are waiting for a special letter -- especially if it contains money!

Today it only takes a few days for a letter to travel across a country the size of the United States. But in 1861, for instance, a letter mailed in Missouri would take 10 days to reach California -- and that remarkable speed was made possible only by the Pony Express. Riders raced along 10 miles an hour and were allowed only two minutes to change horses. Ads for riders asked for "expert riders, willing to risk death daily."

These days, most letter carriers do not risk death daily -- only dog bites and bad weather.

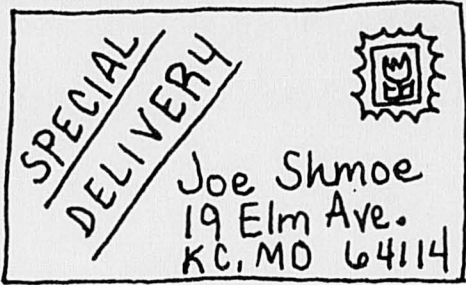
Back to the letter you are waiting for. Ever wondered what happens to a letter after you drop it into the corner mailbox? Here's how it would be processed by the largest postal system in the world. First, of course, the letter carrier picks it up and takes it to the post office, one of about 40,000 across the United States. Then, a postal driver takes it to a postal service management sectional center. There are more than 200 of these centers, always near major cities.

Employees empty sacks of mail onto conveyor belts and separate small parcels, metered mail, forwarded mail and large envelopes. (The United State Post Office handles over 60 billion pieces of mail a year.) The

remaining first-class mail passes through a machine called the Edger Feeder. This machine sorts mail by envelope size and thickness.

Then, the mail moves through the Facer Canceler Machine. An ultraviolet light shine on the envelope, revealing the fluorescent dye coated on the stamp. The machine cancels and postmarks the stamp.

Next, the mail goes to an Optical Character Reader (OCR), which prepares letters for automated sorting. This machine translates the United States zip code into a symbol called a bar code. An electronic camera in the OCR scans the address and transmits the image as a digital signal to a computer. The computer is pro-



grammed to recognized words and common misspellings, so it can verify the zip code.

Letters coded by the OCR pass through bar code sorters. These read codes and sort 28,000 letters a minute. The letters that are not readable by the OCR must be sorted by operators. They key the first three numbers of the zip code to direct the letter to the proper city. At the city's distribution center, other operators

key the last three numbers to send it to the addressee's post office.

Letter writing is an inexpensive way to maintain friendships across the miles. Just imagine your community without postal service. You wouldn't be able to send away for fashion catalogs or information on vacations. So, take advantage of the marvelous technology that makes every letter a "special delivery."

A Terrifying Case of Stage Fright

By Pat Hill

The man looked at his hands. They were drenched with sweat. His heart was pounding in his ears. His legs felt like jelly. His stomach cramped in a pulsating motion: cramp, release, cramp, release. The man was terrified. He tried everything to relax. He went to the restroom for the third time in twenty minutes; he took deep breaths. He even tried to meditate but nothing worked.

He was not himself. Gone were his confident, rowdy obnoxious mannerisms. Gone was his over-bearing, free-wheeling personality. In its place stood a serious man wrapped in stony silence.

He would try to force a smile or give a casual pat on the back to a fellow actor. He tried his hardest to look calm and confident as an example to the younger actors. It didn't work. Everyone knew there was something wrong. There was something missing. They were polite enough not to say anything, but

they knew, and it bothered them.

Realizing this, he separated himself from the group. He went off by himself. He wanted to be alone in his thoughts. He tried to focus on his character but his mind would wander back to two thoughts, "Why am I doing this?" and "What if I fail?" The first had an answer. He had told his father it was his calling, that acting was what he wanted to devote his life to. The second question had no answer.

He knew his cue was coming up. He readied himself to go on stage. His mind went back to what a fellow actor recently told him, "Hey, don't worry about the lines. You got 'em. Worry about characterization. The lines will come."

With his heart in his throat, he went on stage. He remained focused and delivered his lines with proper energy. When the audience gave him their positive response, he knew that acting was indeed the true love of his life.

Sisters Contribute To The Development Of Avila

By Cheryl Denslow

Who are the Sisters of Avila College? They are a past president, dean, professors, managers, librarians, and community members to name a few. They are classified by the college as full-time, part-time, and half-time faculty and sisters-in-residence. Some live on campus, others off campus.

The sisters of Avila are individuals with a wealth of knowledge, information, cherished memories, and experiences that they will share gladly. It becomes evident in conversations with them that they are very dedicated to the College. They are highly enthusiastic and involved both on campus and in the community.

Sister Felice Helmes, for example, although retired from the College since 1983, continues to use her expertise in Speech and English to help people from foreign countries, who are not students, with their English grammar and pronunciation skills. She to being described as retired, she responds with a hint of amusement that "sisters don't retire, they just put their energies in other directions." In addition to her tutoring, Sister Felice coordinates the activi-

ties of the convent from scheduling meetings to birthday celebrations and makes sure the bills get paid.

Sister Margaret E. Reinhart, artist -in-residence, retired from the Art Department after 35 years. She continues to work in the studio or Thornhill Gallery doing watercolors and oils, some for exhibit and others for sale. She uses her skill with calligraphy when needed for college documents and awards.

Because there is no mandatory retirement for the sisters, it is an individual decision when to begin to cut back on time spent working for the College.

Sister Siena Marie Miget went half-time just this year working as one of three assistant librarians. She is involved at St. Thomas Moore Church. Sister de LaSalle McKeon has taught at Avila for 45 years, making her the longest teaching faculty member. Classified as part-time, she continues to work in the Music Department giving 35 private lessons a week. On weekends she plays the organ at two churches for Sunday services and weddings.

Sister Olive Louise Dallavis exemplifies the dedication of many of the sisters of Avila. During her 25 years as President of the College, from 1960 to 1985, she worked to establish Avila as a fine educational institution. She continues her commitment to future developments as a member of the Advancement Office team.

Seeking support for the College has allowed Sister Olive Louise to be active in the community. "Volunteer activities are an opportunity to give back to the community a little of what has been contributed to the development of Avila," she said. She feels honored to have been asked to serve on several committees by the mayor of Kansas City. Among her awards are the Jefferson Award given to outstanding people in the community and the title "Successful Career Woman of the Year."

Space does not allow recognition of each of the sisters, but it goes without saying that the sisters of Avila are a special part of what makes this College a vital institution of higher education.

Favorite Settings For Graveyards and Ruined Castles

By Stella Steele

Hi! Let me see your schedule. I see you didn't take Romantic Literature this semester. Do you think it's probably just a bunch of dumb love stories. Sit down a minute, and let me tell you what Romantic Literature is really about.

The term "Romantic" dates from the middle of the seventeenth century. The original meaning of the word was far-fetched or unreal.

Eventually, the word came into use as a descriptive term for scenes or situations that were pleasing to the reader. However, the authors labeled "romanticists" who produced work during the years 1789-1832 did not consider themselves romantic in the general sense of the word. As a matter of convenience, anyone who wrote at this time in a revolt against the mechanized concepts of the neo-

classical era was labeled "Romanticist." This revolt was carried forward in all levels of society, but writers in particular explored nature, melancholy, and sentimentalism.

In a direct response to an indifference to the external elements of nature that had lain dormant for the last fifty years, the Romantics ushered in an enthusiastic exploration of nature. The major Romanticists were fascinated by varied aspects of the earth. Their feeling for beauty which led them to write of nature's solitude, magnitude and contrasting moods has left a legacy of unequaled beauty for the reader. Wordsworth and Keats wrote of its silence and solitude. Byron graced his writing with the everchanging panorama and magnitude of this earth. Shelly penned vivid verse extolling the many moods and changes of nature. Even the formal English garden gave way to a new informal landscape. Winding paths led to grottos and even artificial ruins were constructed to provide a romantic setting. Perhaps there was a close relationship between the new ideal garden and freedom of verse in poetry.

Melancholy has often been called graveyard literature. Often this ran to gloomy moods that dwelt on skulls and sad, silent men, musing man's own death and immortality. The other end of the spectrum was a more pleasing melancholy embarked upon

Fast Food Escape At Applebee's

By Lisa Levine and Tasha Kovich

Welcome to the wonderful world of food! Today's guest is Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill. We know that most of you are familiar with Applebee's. But for those of you who are not, it's along the same lines as T.G.I. Friday's, Bennigan's and Darryl's. The atmosphere is very versatile. It's a great place to go with the family, with a friend for lunch or on a weekend date.

Recently Applebee's has added something new to their wide array of menu items. Now you can also choose from four different types of croissant sandwiches: Monterey Jack

cheese and turkey, American cheese and ham, French dip, and club. They come with one side order, such as soup, salad or French fries. Prices range from \$4.79 to \$4.99. Prices on the rest of the menu run from \$4-8.

Overall we give this restaurant an "A" grade. So, next time, remember Applebee's. You will appreciate their friendly, courteous service. Applebee's is located at 1046 West 103rd street. Hours are Monday -- Saturday 11a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.

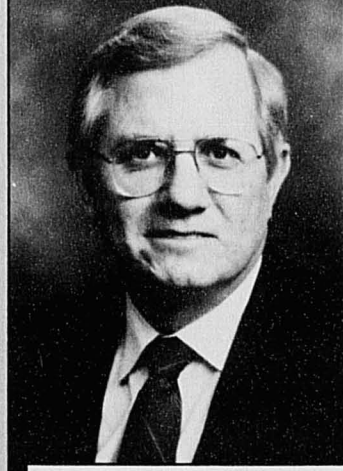
The Hunt For Dr. Larry Kramer

Name: Larry Kramer

Position and/or Department: President

Family: Wife, Jan; Children: Kevin, 24; Kathy, 22; Doug, 20; and David, 16

I spend most of my time: enjoying work



Dr. Kramer. Photo courtesy of Community Relations

A really great evening would be: watching the K.C. Chiefs win the Super Bowl

Favorite food and where to get it: chocolate ice cream

Favorite time of the year: Fall and Christmas

Personal goal or goals: see that Avila College achieves it potential and all associated with the College are recognized for their contributions.

The person I most admire is: my wife, Jan

Favorite book and/or movie: Hunt for Red October, Powershift by Alvin Toffler

If I had more leisure time, I would: play golf and travel

I'd give anything for: what I have today

Everyday I vow to: enjoy the day

One thing everybody has tried but me is: cigarettes



## SPORTS FEATURE

### Expecting a Drastic Change

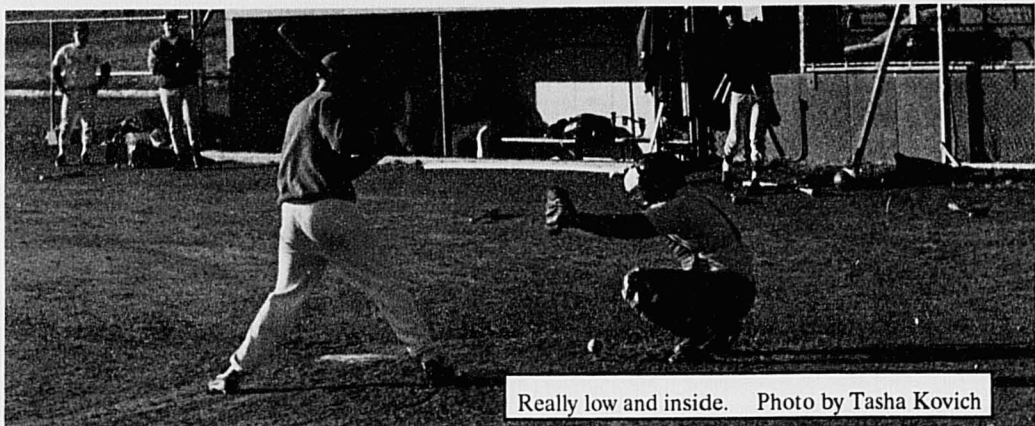
By Scott Duffen

When I left the baseball field in the small town of Mexico, Missouri, and headed for the diamond in the large city, I was expecting a drastic change. However, besides the differences, there are a few similarities. To me, the most noticeable comparison is low attendance for baseball games. In Mexico, we were lucky if our parents showed up for a game. Here we are lucky if five students show up. Another similarity is size. Not only is Mexico small, but Avila is also small. Avila is probably the only college in the world where you can leave your room two minutes before class and show up to class a minute early.

There are many differences. The biggest one to me is the scheduling. My senior year in high school we played a total of twenty-two games. Here we have a sixty-game schedule. Our first game is March 1. We did not start practice in high school until February 28. Another big difference is the lack of equipment at Mexico

compared to the equipment here. In Mexico we had the basic equipment. At Avila we have tons of batting and pitching equipment. Pitchers have different conditioning items for their arms while the hitters have a soft-toss and a curveball machine, not to mention the indoor batting cage and video equipment. Competition is also a difference at the collegiate level. No longer do you have a 7, 8 or 9 spot for an easy out. Those hitters usually were hitting in the 3, 4 and 5 spot in high school. Competition so far has been the hardest difference to get used to. With the talent at this level I have added a new pitch to my repertoire and have had to improve on my other pitches.

Although we have a young team we should be able to overcome our mistakes and come out on top with our talent. Get away from school for awhile and come watch us play ball.



Really low and inside. Photo by Tasha Kovich

### Eagles Wins At Home Overshadowed By Road Games

By Dennis Hallblade

The Avila men's basketball team has had its share of ups and downs this year. The Eagles have a 9-17 record going into the last three games of the season.

The bright spot for the Eagles has been their winning record at home. Going into the February 4 game against William Jewell, the men's team had compiled a 6-3 record at Mabee Fieldhouse. The winning continued at home for Avila as they defeated the Cardinals 78-63. William Jewell came into the game ranked #2 in District 16 play. The Eagles used a balanced scoring attack led by Brian Strauss with 20 points. Other scorers were Randy Johnson (18), Dennis Hallblade (12), Kevin Lowder (11), and Chris Pickett (10).

The Eagles then traveled to

Parkville, Missouri on February 6 to face the Park Pirates. Park came into the game with an 18-4 record. The Pirates hot shooting created a 73-34 half-time lead, from which the Eagles could never recover. Avila played a better second half, but could only close the gap for a 111-81 final. Avila was led in scoring by Dennis Hallblade with 28. Kevin Lowder and Paul Wolfer each scored 14.

After the Eagles worst defeat of the year at Park, the Avila cagers were glad to be back home to face the Benedictine Ravens. The Eagles played a poor first half, but were able to mount a comeback in the second half behind the 3-point shooting of Randy Johnson. The Eagles clawed back to take a one-point lead on a Kevin Lowder jumpshot. The Ra-

vens called a time-out to set up a play for their main man Pat Giller. The Ravens got the ball to Giller at the top of the key. Giller shot an 18 footer with 3 seconds left that bounced around the rim and in as time expired. "We played hard enough to win the game, but we just couldn't get it done," said Randy Johnson, "This game typifies the way our season has gone. It was within our reach, but we just came up short." Guard Randy Johnson hit six 3-point goals and led the Avila scoring attack with 22. Brian Strauss had 17 followed by Dennis Hallblade with 16.

The Avila men's basketball team finishes out the year facing Drury, Columbia and Rockhurst.

### Problems With the Ballfield

By Jim Huber

Workers began the process of building the Avila Sports Complex last fall; a semester later work continues. Avila was hoping that it would be completed by now, but the weather has been a huge spoiler in dampening these hopes.

The workers have already built much of the complex. They have built the grandstand for the fields. The foundation of the baseball, softball, and soccer fields are completed. The sod for the baseball's grass infield has already been implanted on the field. The sprinkler system has also been installed in the fields. The fencing for the fields has begun, which should be com-

pleted within the next week.

On the other hand, there are plans that have been delayed, because of the unpredictable weather. The dugouts still have not been built. The infield dirt and the bases can not be put onto the fields until they are dry. There are other little adjustments that need to undergo some work.

Hopefully, the fields will be completed soon with a little help from the weather. Until the fields are completed the baseball team will be playing at Kansas City, Missouri 3 & 2 fields and the softball team will be at 140th and Holmes, Jackson County Park.

### Girls Basketball Still In the Race

By Chris Pickett

When the Lady Eagles opened their season against Culver-Stockton, first-year coach Jamie Collins just wanted her team to improve on the 1989-90 record of 5 wins-23 losses and gain experience. What she, and many others, did not expect was to be in the middle of the District 16 play-off race.

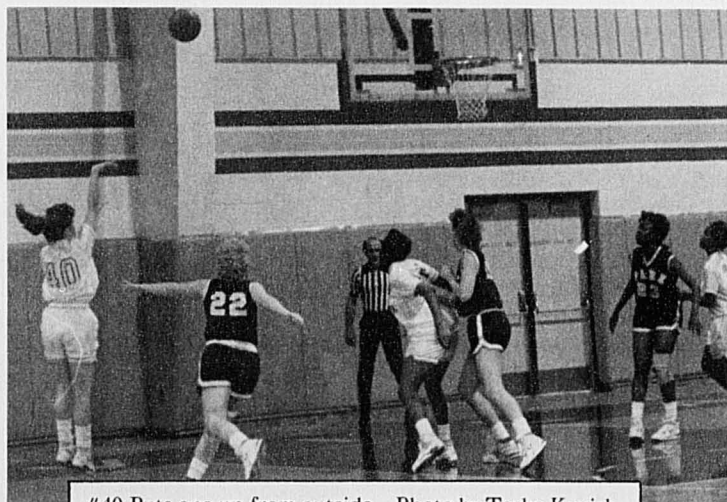
The women are riding high with a 9 win-18 loss record with three games left. They travel to Fayette, Missouri, to take on Central Methodist and then finish up with the College of the Ozarks and cross-town rival Rockhurst at Mabee Fieldhouse.

The Lady Eagles have enjoyed impressive victories over Culver-Stockton, Ottawa, Lindenwood, and

Stockton, Ottawa, Lindenwood, and Kansas Newman to name a few. Their tough schedule and lack of experience hasn't seemed to be as big of a problem as everyone thought.

"We've played well together. We've had a few breakdowns, but we've always managed to come through. We have some talented and determined women on our team. Give us another year and we'll be a district contender," said junior center Jocelyn Turner.

With the Lady Eagles knocking on the door of the District 16 play-offs, optimism has filled the campus and another winning program is being built right before our very eyes.



#40 Puts one up from outside. Photo by Tasha Kovich

### Companies at Center Court Career Fair

By Derek Moorhead, Sports Editor

Kemper Arena will again be the host for the second annual NAIA Center Court Career Fair. This opportunity will be held during the first two days, March 12 and 13, of the NAIA Men's Basketball Championship.

This fair is designed to give students an opportunity for interview and employment discussion with a number of outstanding national and local companies.

As of February 21, participating companies are as follows: "Action" - Federal Agency ARA Services

Baptist Medical Center  
Boatman's First National Bank  
Commerce Bank  
Dennis Auto Plaza  
Farmers Insurance Group  
Farmland Industries, Inc.  
Federal Reserve Bank  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Gannett Outdoor Company  
Hallmark Cards, Inc.  
K.C. Police Department  
K.C. Life Insurance Company  
K.C. Power and Light Company  
Research Medical Center  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

US Sprint (2 booths)

Students can meet with these companies between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to discuss employment possibilities. Steve Nieman, NAIA marketing executive, was quoted as saying, "This year, we look to see between 1,000 and 2,000 students attending."

The City of Kansas City, the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City, the Centurions Group of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission will be sponsoring the Center Court Career Fair.

### Basketball Coach Profiles And Season Outlooks

Reprinted with permission of the Athletic Department

Coach Bill Wiesbrook is in his third year at Avila College as Men's Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director. Before coming to Avila, Bill served as an assistant coach at the University of Northern Iowa, Rockford College and Herscher High School in Herscher, IL. Wiesbrook holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Education and a Master's in Physical Education.

Bryan Bravard is in his third year at Avila College as Assistant Coach. Bryan previously served as an assistant at Northwestern State University (IA) and Waterloo West High School in Waterloo, IA.

School of the Ozarks. Junior Chris Pickett brings a proven 3 point threat back to the squad (63%). Sophomores Kevin Lowder and Keith Harris return with impressive freshmen seasons. Last season Lowder was a double-figure scorer (10.3) and Harris finished second in rebounding (6.2). Jason Porter will be the lone senior on this year's team, having played a substitute role during his junior year.

Jamie Collins spent three years as an assistant coach at Rockhurst College and one year as Head Girl's Basketball Coach at Barstow High

School. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

The outlook for the 1990-91 Avila Women's Basketball Team is one of rebuilding. With only 3 players returning from last year's team and 8 newcomers, this year's team is looking for leadership, team play and consistency. This year's squad breakdown: 1 senior, 4 juniors, 1 sophomore, and 5 freshmen. One of the key returnees for Avila will be senior LaShon Gant. LaShon, 5'4" point guard, averaged 8 points and 5 assists last season. Other key returnees include junior college transfers Jocelyn Turner, Janice Williams, and Kelley Huber. Each of these players will be counted on for inside play, since one of the areas of concern is rebounding and inside scoring. Outside play will be provided by Joyce Heimsoth, a 5'7" freshman, Sarah Ziegs, a 5'4" freshman, and Kim Nordike, 5'8" junior. Others who will contribute include Kim Lanning, 5'8" sophomore, Lana Kenter, 5'11" freshman, Shelly Schubert, 5'5" freshman, and Paulette Carothers, 5'9" freshman.

NAIA District 16	
Dunkel rankings	
Through February 16	
Men	
1. Drury .....	46.3
2. Columbia .....	42.3
3. Park .....	40.3
4. Mo. Valley .....	37.1
5. William Jewell .....	37.0
6. Ozarks .....	36.5
7. Culver-Stockton .....	34.8
8. Evangel .....	34.7
9. Central Methodist .....	37.3
10. Tarkio .....	31.6
11. Rockhurst .....	30.3
12. Avila .....	27.6
13. Mo. Baptist .....	27.4
14. Westminster .....	23.1
15. Harris-Stowe .....	19.8
16. Lindenwood .....	18.1
17. Hann.-LeGrange .....	11.2
Women	
1. William Jewell .....	53.5
2. Rockhurst .....	53.4
3. Ozarks .....	45.5
4. William Woods .....	39.6
5. Park .....	32.7
6. Evangel .....	32.1
7. Culver-Stockton .....	29.2
8. Lindenwood .....	29.0
9. Avila .....	28.4
10. Mo. Baptist .....	27.2
11. Harris-Stowe .....	25.9
12. Mo. Valley .....	23.7
13. Tarkio .....	23.3
14. Cent. Methodist .....	18.2